

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-formed central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with its central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its centre being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its centre, the web height of the outer profile (14) increasing continuously sideways from its centre, and the web height of the cover (15) decreasing continuously sideways from its centre.

Claim 2. (cancelled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to claim ~~1 or 2~~, characterised in that the depth of the bumper beam at its centre is at least 130% of the depth of the bumper beam at its fastening portions, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between these fastening portions.

Claim 4. (original) A bumper beam according to claim 3; characterised in that its depth at its centre is at least 160% of its depth at its fastening portions

Claim 5. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23).

Claim 6. (currently amended) A bumper beam according to Claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 7. (original) A bumper beam according to claim 6, characterised in that both the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) have side flanges that end their webs, and these side flanges (19 and 27; 20 and 28) are welded together.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-formed central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with its central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs

with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its centre being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its centre, and

~~A bumper beam according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the sheet of the cover has a lower yield strength than the sheet of the outer profile.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A bumper beam for a vehicle, comprising an outer profile (14) with a bow-formed central flange (16) and two webs (17, 18), and a cover (15) that provides a closed profile, the outer profile being adapted to be fastened with its central flange facing outwards from the vehicle,

characterised in that

the cover (15) has a central flange (24) and two webs (25, 26), and the two webs (25, 26) of the cover are coupled in pairs with the two webs (17, 18) of the outer profile (14), the web height of the cover (15) at its centre being greater than the web height of the outer profile (14) at its centre, and

~~A bumper beam according to any of the preceding claims, characterised in that~~ the sheet thickness of the cover (15) is less than the sheet thickness of the outer profile (14).

Claim 10. (cancelled)

Claim 11. (cancelled)

Claim 12. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23).

Claim 13. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23).

Claim 14. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 3, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 15. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 4, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 16. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 5, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.

Claim 17. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the the sheet thickness of the cover (15) is less than the sheet thickness of the outer profile (14).

Claim 18. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the sheet of the cover has a lower yield strength than the sheet of the outer profile.

Claim 19. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the depth of the bumper beam at its centre is at least 130% of the depth of the bumper beam at its fastening portions, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between these fastening portions.

Claim 20. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the depth of the bumper beam at its centre is at least 130% of the depth of the bumper beam at its fastening portions, and the central flange (24) of the cover extends substantially linearly between these fastening portions.

Claim 21. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23).

Claim 22. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 9, characterised in that the webs of the cover have transverse stiffeners (23).

Claim 23. (new) A bumper beam according to Claim 8, characterised in that the outer profile (14) and the cover (15) are welded together.